Hannibal Lokumbe

Classic composer and jazz trumpeter Hannibal Lokumbe (né Marvin Peterson) has been celebrating and commemorating the African-American experience through music and words for over four decades.

Lokumbe's work has been commissioned and performed by symphonies and orchestras across the country, including The Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra (Can you hear God Crying? conducted by Dirk Brossé, 2012), The Detroit Symphony Orchestra (Dear Mrs. Parks, conducted by Thomas Wilkins, 2005) and The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (God, Mississippi and a Man Called Evers, conducted by Dr. Leslie Dunner, 2002).

Lokumbe’s piece One Land, One River, One People was performed by The Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin in November 2015.

Lokumbe’s oratorio African Portraits debuted at Carnegie Hall with conductor Paul Lustig Dunkel and the American Composers Orchestra in 1990. Since its debut, African Portraits has been performed over two hundred times by orchestras across America, and was recorded with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Daniel Barenboim.

Other orchestral and choral recordings include In The Spirit Of Being (Vocal Essence), A Shepherd Among Us (Arts Sanctuary), One Heart Beating (The Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Andre Raphel Smith), Fannie Lou Hamer (Kronos Quartet), and many others.

In 2014, Lokumbe completed Trilogy Freedom Dance Cycle, a narrative about the murders of three men — James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner — who were
registering African-Americans to vote in Mississippi during the Freedom Summer Campaign in 1964.

Originally from Smithville Texas, Lokumbe lived and played in New York’s jazz scene for over thirty years, where he performed with many of his music idols including: Gil Evans, Roy Haynes, Cecil Taylor, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra and Elvin Jones.

When he’s not traveling and performing, Lokumbe splits his time between his home in Bastrop, Texas and his studio in New Orleans, LA.